

§Appl. No. 10/690,723
Amdt. dated October 27, 2005
Reply to Office Action of, July 27, 2005

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A mining hopper for the transport of material comprising:
at least one steel portion comprising a bottom floor, a plurality of side walls and a front wall;
at least one rubber or polymer portion;
wherein said at least one rubber or polymer portion comprises a substantially planar mat
varying in thickness over its length and at least one additional planar mat associated with each of
said sidewalls and said front wall.

Claim 2 (Cancelled)

Claim 3 (Currently Amended) The mining hopper of claim 2 1 wherein said at least one
steel portion further comprises a visor portion.

Claim 4 (Cancelled)

Claim 5 (Original) The mining hopper of claim 1 further comprising a fastening system for
supporting said substantially planar mat.

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Claim 6 (Original) The mining hopper of claim 5 wherein said fastening system comprises a plurality of elastomeric ropes which are located in parallel with one another.

Claim 7 (Original) The mining hopper of claim 6 wherein said fastening system further comprises at least one clamp and one bolt associated with each said elastomeric rope for adjusting the tension on each of said elastomeric ropes.

Claim 8 (Original) The mining hopper of claim 1 further comprising a support frame, said support frame comprising a plurality of square-shaped longitudinal beams and a plurality of square-shaped transverse beams, said transverse beams, said transverse beams being perpendicular to said longitudinal beams.

Claim 9 (Original) The mining hopper of claim 1 wherein said steel portion comprises a front wall and a plurality of side walls.

Claim 10 (Original) The mining hopper of claim 9 wherein said front wall has a rectangular shape and a hexagon hyperbolic base.

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Claim 11 (Currently Amended) The mining hopper of claim 9 wherein said side walls have a ~~trapezoidal~~ substantially triangular shape.

Claim 12 (Original) The mining hopper of claim 1 further comprising a front wall and wherein the thickness of said planar mat varies such that said planar mat is thinner in an area which is closest to said front wall..

Claim 13 (Original) The mining hopper of claim 6 wherein said elastomericropes comprise polyester fibers covered with rubber.

Claim 14 (Original) The mining hopper of claim 1 further comprising at least one removable and adjustable rubber block fastened to said steel portion.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended) A mining hopper for the transport of rock and ores comprising:

a steel portion comprising a bottom floor, a plurality of side walls and a front wall

~~a portion~~ portions formed from polymers;

wherein said portions ~~portion~~ formed from polymers comprises the body of said mining hopper, said body bearing the impact and wear resulting from the transport of said rocks and ores,

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and wherein said steel portion functions to fasten and support said ~~portion~~ portions formed from polymers, said body further comprising a separate body portion, a plurality of separate side walls, a separate front section, and a separate visor all formed from polymers.

Claim 16 (Cancelled)

Claim 17 (Cancelled)

Claim 18 (New) The mining hopper of claim 15 wherein the bottom portion, plurality of side walls front section and visor are a combination of steel parts and polymers.